

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 remain in the application for consideration of the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Turning now to the art rejections, Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 19-21, 26, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Petted.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Petted does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the control circuit being operative to provide a ramped down voltage signal at the output voltage node that linearly tracks a first ramped up voltage signal applied to the input voltage node in independent Claim 1, albeit defined as the step of providing a ramped down voltage signal at the output voltage node that linearly tracks the first ramped up voltage signal in independent Claim 19.

The Examiner acknowledges that Petted does not disclose this feature but alleges that the limitation is result derived from the apparatus shown in Petted.

However, this allegation is traversed.

The combination of circuit and control circuitry of the present invention by the use of bias voltage and current results in this advantageous result.

To say that this operation is adherent in the applied prior art is simply incorrect.

Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 3-6, 8, 9, 12-18, 22-25, 27-30, and 32-37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

However, in light of the high cost of independent claims and the belief that the rejected claims are allowable, Applicants delay placing these claims in independent form.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,



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